Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1 – 9 (canceled)

10.　(new) A method for transmitting a data burst between a sending network node and a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising:

receiving information by the sending network node regarding a blocking time;

waiting for expiration of the blocking time; and

transmitting the data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node.

11.　(new) The method according to claim 10, further comprising transmitting a remaining blocking time of an available connection between the sending and receiving nodes to the sending network node.

12.　(new) The method according to claim 11, further comprising transmitting to the sending network node both:

the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or the blocking time until the beginning of an available connection, and

the point in time of the termination of the available connection or the duration of the available connection or a length of time until the end of the available connection are transmitted to the sending network node.

13.　(new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the blocking time and the remaining connection time for a connection are transmitted to the sending network node.

14.　(new) The method according to claim 11, wherein the sending network node sends a reservation request via the switching device to the receiving network node.

15.　(new) The method according to claim 14, wherein a desired length of time until a subsequent data burst is sent in the reservation request.

16.	(new) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data burst is transmitted via a plurality of switching devices.

17.	(new) The method according to claim 15, wherein each switching device determines and transmits the longest remaining blocking time to the next switching device or the receiving network node.

18.	(new) The method according to claim 15, wherein during an acknowledgement signal the receiving end node sends the remaining time till an available connection to the sending network node via the switching devices and the switching devices reserve the transmission capacity.

19.	(new) The method according to claim 18, wherein the reserved transmission capacity is based on the remaining time information.

20.	(new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the data bursts are transmitted over an optical data network.

21.	(new) A method for transmitting a data burst between a sending network node and a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising:

receiving information by the sending network node regarding a blocking time;

waiting for expiration of the blocking time;

transmitting the data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node;

transmitting a remaining blocking time of an available connection between the sending and receiving nodes to the sending network node; and

transmitting to the sending network node:

the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or the blocking time until the beginning of an available connection, and

the point in time of the termination of the available connection or the
duration of the available connection or a length of time until the end of the
available connection are transmitted to the sending network node.

22.   (new) The method according to claim 21, wherein the blocking time is the time
duration till the next permissible data burst transmission.

23.   (new) A method for transmitting a data burst between a sending network node and
a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising:

   receiving information by the sending network node regarding a blocking time;

   waiting for expiration of the blocking time;

   transmitting the data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node;

   transmitting a remaining blocking time of an available connection between the sending
and receiving nodes to the sending network node; and

   transmitting to the sending network node the point in time of the beginning of an available
connection, and the duration of the available connection.